

# PRESS RELEASE

August 17, 2006

**RE: UNITED STATES V. CHARLES E. HAWKINS, JR.**

United States Attorney Terrance P. Flynn announced U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara sentenced Charles E. Hawkins, Jr., 50, of Ohio, to a 40-month prison term for traveling across state lines to engage in sexual activity with a minor child. Upon his release from prison, Hawkins will be on supervision for five years. Chief Judge Arcara ordered the defendant to undergo mental health intervention specifically designed for the treatment of sexual offenders. Hawkins will also be required to register as a sex offender.

Chief Judge Arcara stated when determining Hawkins' sentence, he was taking into consideration prior allegations made against the defendant involving sexual activity with minors.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marie P. Grisanti said the defendant pled guilty on April 19, 2006, and admitted that in October of 2004, he drove from Montana to Western New York for the purpose of meeting and engaging in sexual conduct with a thirteen-year-old girl. The prosecutor said the defendant met a minor girl on the Internet and communicated with her through instant messages and by telephone. The girl's parents found out about the communications and alerted Cheektowaga Police. The FBI thereafter assumed the girl's on-line identity and began posing as the thirteen-year-old girl and continued to communicate with Hawkins. The Cheektowaga Police and the FBI were expecting Hawkins

when he arrived at the predetermined location to meet the thirteen-year-old girl. Hawkins was taken into custody at that time, and the 1999 Chevrolet Astro Van that Hawkins was driving was seized and later forfeited by the United States in a separate civil action.

The conviction resulted from an investigation by the Cheektowaga Police Department under the direction of Chief Christine Ziemba, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent-in-Charge Laurie Bennett.